

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a photocatalyst ~~having~~ comprising a carrier carrying titania and metal ~~with~~ having a property of exhibiting thermal catalytic activity, said method comprising:

preparing a metal carrying step of causing said carrier carrying the titania to carry a compound of said metal;

~~a reduction step of hydrogen-reducing the metal carried on titania by hydrogen~~, in a heating atmosphere at a first treatment temperature, said compound of the metal carried by said carrier in said metal carrying step; and

~~an oxidation step of oxidizing~~, in a heating atmosphere at a second treatment temperature, said metal obtained by hydrogen reduction in said reduction step to thereby enhance activity of said metal.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second treatment temperature is equal to or less than said first treatment temperature.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second treatment temperature falls within a range of 300°C to 600°C.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second treatment temperature falls within a range of 500°C to 600°C.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a temperature adjusting step of setting a temperature of said carrier to said second treatment temperature in an inert gas atmosphere after said reduction step.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said metal is at least one of platinum, rhodium, ruthenium, and nickel.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the content of the platinum falls within a range of 0.04 weight % to 0.5 weight % relative to the weight of the photocatalyst.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the content of the titania is 10 weight % or more relative to weight of the photocatalyst.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said carrier is a silica bead.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising, prior to said metal carrying step, a step of impregnating into said carrier a first treatment liquid containing titanium ~~tetra~~~~isopropoxide~~ tetraalkoxide and ~~isopropyl~~ alcohol;

a step of hydrolyzing a titanium compound impregnated into said carrier to cause said carrier to carry titania; and

a step of calcining said carrier carrying the titania.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

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Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of February 5, 2007

14. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said oxidation step is carried out to obtain fine crystal particles of the metal by cutting bonds in a raft-shaped crystal structure of the metal formed in said reduction step.

15. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said oxidation step is carried out in